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SAT SCORES IN STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOLLOW NATIONAL TREND

*District scores post one year decline while the number of students scoring 500 or higher remains constant
Growth over five years exceeds state and nation; SAT II scores exceed state and/or nation in several subjects*

(September 19, 2011) SAT scores for the Stamford Public Schools (SPS) Class of 2011 mirrored national trends by declining from the previous year in Critical Reading, Math, and Writing. Over a five year period however, SAT scores for SPS students increased on all three SAT sections, while scores in Connecticut and the nation remained flat or declined.

- In Critical Reading, SAT scores for SPS students increased by nine points from 472 to 481, while SAT scores in Connecticut remained unchanged at 509 and national scores declined from 501 to 497.
- In Math, SAT scores for SPS students increased by 16 points from 476 to 492, while Connecticut scores increased by two points, from 511 to 513 and nationally scores were unchanged at 514.
- In Writing, SAT scores for SPS students increased by 11 points from 479 to 490 while Connecticut scores increased by three points from 510 to 513 and national scores decreased by four points from 493 to 489.

The number of students in the Class of 2011 who scored 500 or higher on the Critical Reading, Math, and Writing sections remained constant when compared to the Class of 2010 (see Table 1). Although both classes were similar in size, the Class of 2011's participation rate increased to 71.1% from 66.4%. A total of 767 students in the Class of 2011 took the SATs, an increase of 90 students. "We are pleased with the increased participation rate because the SAT exam is an 'access gateway' to college and indicates our progress in promoting student aspirations to secure post-secondary education," said Dr. Winifred Hamilton, Acting Superintendent of Schools.

While SAT participation increased, SAT scores for the Class of 2011 dipped in Critical Reading, Math, and Writing from the Class of 2010. Mean Critical Reading Scores decreased by 14 points to 481; mean Math scores declined by 12 points to 492; and mean Writing scores decreased by nine points to 490. Possible scores for each section range from 200 to 800. Statewide and nationally, mean SAT scores remained flat or declined.

On the SAT II Subject Tests, the Class of 2011 continued Stamford's record of excellence (see Table 2):

- Stamford's mean scores in Literature, U.S. History, Math Level II, and Biology (Ecological) exceeded the mean nationally.
- Stamford's mean score in Spanish exceeded the mean for the state.
- Stamford's mean score in Chemistry exceeded the mean for the state and the nation.

The district pays for all high school students to take the PSATs in order to encourage participation, provide experience with the test, and to aid college planning. Over the past five years, the district has implemented many curriculum reforms to increase academic rigor. Curriculum has been rewritten and aligned to state and national standards. Professional development has been extensive, and regular assessments measure student progress systematically. The GE Developing Futures™ Program is infusing \$25.8 million into SPS in order to improve student achievement and promote college readiness. In 2007, Westhill was selected as one of nine high schools in Connecticut to participate in Project Opening Door (POD) through a five year \$594,000 grant to increase the number of students scoring 3 or higher on AP Mathematics, Science, and English exams. In 2010-11, the number of students taking Advanced Placement exams increased to 813; the number of AP exams taken increased to 1680, and the percent of students scoring a 3 or above increased to 68.7%.